

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5389

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 7520

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: FURTHER STEPS TOWARD AUTONOMY IN MADEIRA AND THE AZORES

REF: PONTA DELGADA 440 (DTG 201207Z NOV 75)

SUMMARY: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON DEC 16 APPROVED DECREE-LAWS
ESTABLISHING REGIONAL JUNTA FOR MADEIRA AND DELEGATION OF
LIMITED MINISTERIAL LEVEL POWERS FOR BOTH MADEIRA AND THE AZORES.
ACTION REPRESENTS MAJOR STEP TOWARD FULL AUTONOMY FOR MADEIRA.
DELEGATIONS ARE LESS BROAD THAN HOPED FOR BY SOME AZOREANS,
BUT SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM TOWARD FULL
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AUTONOMY, WHILE LEAVING INDEPENDENCE OPTION STILL OPEN.

END SUMMARY.

1. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON DEC 16 APPROVED DECREE-LAWS ESTABLISHING THE BASIC STRUCTURE FOR DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION IN THE MADEIRA ISLANDS AND DELEGATING ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO THE REGIONAL JUNTA IN THE AZORES TO BRING IT TO THE SAME LEVEL APPROVED FOR MADEIRA.

2. APPLICATION IN MADEIRA: THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE ESTABLISHED FOR MADEIRA IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THAT WHICH ALREADY EXISTS IN THE AZORES. IT PROVIDES FOR A REGIONAL JUNTA DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. THE JUNTA WOULD BE COMPOSED OF A PRESIDENT AND SIX MEMBERS CHARGED WITH OPERATION OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT ROUGHLY PARALLEL TO THE MINISTRIES IN LISBON. POWERS WILL BE DELEGATED BOTH BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND BY INDIVIDUAL LISBON MINISTERS. IN APPROVING THE GRANT OF AUTHORITY, THE COUNCIL SPECIFICALLY DELEGATED TO THE JUNTA THE POWER TO AUTHORIZE EXPENSES UP TO \$10,000. MIXED COMMISSIONS WILL STUDY WHAT ADDITIONAL POWERS ARE TO BE DELEGATED.

3. APPLICATION TO AZORES: THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ALSO APPROVED A DECREE LAW INTENDED TO ENSURE THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES IN THE AZORES ARE ON THE SAME LEVEL AS THOSE NOW APPROVED FOR MADEIRA. IN COMMENTING ON THE NEW DELEGATIONS, GENERAL ALTINO MAGALHAES, PRESIDENT OF THE AZOREAN REGIONAL JUNTA, TOLD "A LUTA" INTERVIEWER DEC 17 THAT THE NEW POWERS ARE THOSE REQUIRED FOR DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN PAST, THE MOST URGENT DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN LOCALLY EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC GRANTS OF AUTHORITY FROM LISBON.

4. COMMENT: THESE ACTIONS REPRESENT ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF STEPS BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE THE CONCEPT OF AUTONOMY IN BOTH MADEIRA AND THE AZORES IN THE HOPES OF REDUCING SEPARATIST SENTIMENT IN BOTH LOCATIONS. FOR THE MADEIRAS, IT REPRESENTS A MAJOR ADVANCE TOWARD FULL AUTONOMY. FOR THE AZORES, HOWEVER, THE GRANT OF LIMITED MINISTERIAL-LEVEL AUTHORITY IS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THAT

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SOUGHT BY SOME AZOREANS. NEVERTHELESS, THE LATEST ACTIONS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM TOWARD AUTONOMY WHILE LEAVING OPEN THE INDEPENDENCE OPTION.
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